

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An articulated snowboard comprising: a first member; a second member; and an articulation mechanism pivotally joining a first end of said first member to a first end of said second member.
2. The articulated snowboard of claim 1, further comprising:  
Means for removably attaching a user's boot to said first member; and  
means for removable attaching a user's boot to said second member.
3. The articulated snowboard of claim 1, wherein said articulation mechanism joins said first member and said second member such that said first end of said first member can offset vertically a distance  $\Delta h$  greater than 1" from said first end of said second member.
4. The articulated snowboard of claim 1, wherein said articulation mechanism joins said first member and said second member such that said first end of said first member can offset vertically a distance  $\Delta h$  up to about 12" from said first end of said second member.
5. The articulated snowboard of claim 1, wherein said articulation mechanism joins said first member and said second member such that an overall length of said articulated snowboard is dynamically variable by a user of said snowboard.
6. The articulated snowboard of claim 1, wherein said articulation mechanism joins said first member and said second member such that an overall length of said articulated snowboard is dynamically variable by a user of said snowboard within a range of about  $\pm 5$ ".
7. The articulated snowboard of claim 1, wherein said articulation mechanism joins said first member and said second member such

that at least one of a lateral edge and a longitudinal axis of said first member remains substantially parallel to a corresponding one of a lateral edge and a longitudinal axis of said second member.

8. The articulated snowboard of claim 1, wherein said articulation mechanism joins said first member and said second member such that at least one of a lateral edge and a longitudinal axis of said first member remains substantially parallel to a corresponding one of a lateral edge and a longitudinal axis of said second member, while permitting said first end of said first member to offset vertically a distance  $\Delta h$  in a range of about -8" to about +8" from said first end of said second member.
9. The articulated snowboard of claim 1, wherein said articulation mechanism joins said first member and said second member such that said second member can be urged downward by a user to act as a drag rudder to slow movement of said articulated snowboard.
10. The articulated snowboard of claim 1, wherein said articulation mechanism locks which rigidly joins both board segments to form a conventional snowboard.
11. The articulated snowboard claim 1, wherein said articulation mechanism attaches to a central directional ski to increase maneuverability.
12. The articulated snowboard claim 1, wherein said articulation member is linked to suspension/dampening to increase performance.
13. The articulated snowboard of claim 1 wherein said articulation

mechanism allows pivoting along the longitudinal axis of both segments giving each board segment the ability to carve independently.

14. The articulated snowboard of claim 1, wherein said articulation mechanism permits separating said first member from said second member, whereupon said first member and said second member can be used as one of snowshoes and short skis.

15. The articulated snowboard of claim 1, wherein said articulation member permits folding said first member substantially atop said second member when said articulated snowboard is not in use.

16. The articulated snowboard of claim 1, further comprising:  
means for removably attaching a user's boot to said first member;  
and means for removable attaching a user's boot to said second member; wherein each said means for removably attaching is user-rotatable relative to a longitudinal axis of said first member and said second member; wherein said articulation mechanism permits separating said first member from said second member, whereupon said first member and said second member can be used as one of snowshoes and short skis.

17. A method of manufacturing an articulated snowboard, the method comprising the following steps:

Providing a first member and a second member; and pivotally joining a first end of said first member to a first end of said second member with an articulation mechanism.

18. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

Providing on an upper surface of said first member and said second

member a mechanism to removably attach a user's boot to said upper surface.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein pivotally joining includes joining said first member and said second member such that said first end of said first member can offset vertically a distance  $\Delta h$  greater than 1" from said first end of said second member.
20. The method of claim 13, wherein pivotally joining includes joining said first member and said second member such that said first end of said first member can offset vertically a distance  $\Delta h$  up to about 8" from said first end of said second member.
21. The method of claim 13, wherein pivotally joining including joining said first member and said second member such that an effective overall length of said articulated snowboard is dynamically variable by a user of said snowboard.
22. The method of claim 13, wherein pivotally joining including joining said first member and said second member such that an effective overall length of said articulated snowboard is dynamically variable by a user of said snowboard within a range of about  $\pm 5$ ".
23. The method of claim 13, wherein pivotally joining includes joining said first member and said second member such that a longitudinal axis of said first member remains substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of said second member.

24. The method of claim 13, wherein pivotally joining includes joining said first member and said second member such that a lateral edge of said first member remains substantially parallel to a lateral edge of said second member.
25. The method of claim 13, wherein pivotally joining includes joining said first member and said second member such that at least one of a longitudinal axis and a lateral edge of said first member remains substantially parallel to a corresponding one of a longitudinal axis and lateral edge of said second member, while permitting said first end of said first member to offset vertically a distance  $\Delta h$  in a range of about -8" to +8" from said first end of said second member.
26. The method of claim 13, wherein pivotally joining includes joining said first member and said second member such that said second member can be urged downward by a user to act as a drag rudder to slow movement of said articulated snowboard.
27. The method of claim 13, wherein pivotally joining includes removably pivotally joining such that said first member can be separated from said second member, whereupon said first member and said second member can be used as one of snowshoes and short skis.
28. The method of claim 13, wherein pivotally joining includes joining such that said first member can be folded substantially atop said second member when said articulated snowboard is not in use.
29. A method of snowboarding using an articulated snowboard having a first member articulatably joined at a first end to a first end of a

second member, the method comprising the following steps:  
Attaching a user's left boot to said first member and attaching a user's right boot to said second member; and maintaining a longitudinal axis of said first member substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of said second member, while permitting said first end of said first member to move vertically relative to said first end of said second member.

30. The method of claim 25, wherein an effective length of said articulated snowboard is dynamically varied by said user while using said snowboard.